

Jackson a Contributor To Book on King Death

The Rev. Jesse Jackson has written the foreword for a new book in which James Earl Ray asserts that he was an unwitting scapegoat in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Jackson, who was at the motel in Memphis where Dr. King was slain on April 4, 1968, has said before that he thinks Mr. Ray could not have acted alone and that the Federal Government took part in a conspiracy to kill the civil rights leader. Mr. Ray, now 63 years old, pleaded guilty in 1969 to first-degree murder and is serving a 99-year sentence at the Tennessee State Penitentiary at Nashville.

National Press Books, the publisher of Mr. Ray's new book, "Who Killed Martin Luther King?," said in a statement that Mr. Ray and Mr. Jackson "call for the appointment of an independent special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute government employees and F.B.I. agents who were involved in the conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King."

Precisely what Mr. Jackson wrote in the foreword could not be learned yesterday. When asked whether Mr. Jackson had written the foreword, his spokesman, Frank Watkins, said, "That's correct." But Mr. Watkins rebuffed requests to speak to Mr. Jackson.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Daniel McCarron, said: "We have no comment. I don't think anyone has seen the book yet."

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